# FOUNTAIN INSIGE F

## **New Crosswalk Provides Access to Park**

Desert Vista Park offers many sought-after amenities, including the town's only lighted skate park, an off-leash dog park, a new mini-pitch court, three multipurpose fields, Ramadas with barbeques, and restrooms. Located in an industrial area, so consequently, there are few homes in the area where residents can safely access the park on a bike or walking.

Thanks to a recently completed pedestrian crosswalk on Saguaro Boulevard at Tower Drive, residents now have safe pedestrian and bicycle access

to the park. The new cross-walk features an overhead solar Pedestrian Crossing Flashing Beacon system and street lighting to alert drivers of people crossing the road.



## **New Bus Line Gets You There**

The new 515 bus service provides two daily trips from Fountain Hills with connector links to downtown Mesa, light rail, Gilbert and Chandler, and downtown Phoenix, including the State Capital.

The Route 515 Fountain Hills – Mesa Connector starts at the Fountain Hills Park-and-Ride parking lot behind library on the northeast corner of El Lago Boulevard and La Montana Drive. Bus service departs Fountain Hills Monday through Friday at 6:04 a.m. and 7:04 a.m., arriving at the Gilbert/McDowell Park-and-Ride at 6:25 a.m. and 7:25 a.m. Return routes from the Gilbert/McDowell PNR start at 5:06 p.m. and 6:20 p.m. There is no weekend service for this route.

To see the entire route, connections, and times, check out <a href="www.valleymetro.org/maps-schedules.">www.valleymetro.org/maps-schedules.</a>

## **New Mini-Pitch for Big Fun**

The Parks Department had a busy fall with two much-needed features at Desert Vista Park. Thanks to a generous donation by Musco Lighting, a Mini-Pitch (outdoor soccer field that plays like an indoor soccer field) was installed. The gift saved the town nearly \$100,000. The Mini-Pitch will have the surface installed by the end of November.



## **Skate Park Lights**

At the skate park in Desert Park, boarders may now ride at night thanks to a new lighting system. For the first time since it opened, skaters can use the facility after dark in the summer. The town realized a 25 percent cost savings with this lighting project thanks to the partnership with Musco Lighting.



## **Town Council Meetings**

#### FOUNTAIN HILLS COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Ginny Dickey
Vice Mayor Alan Magazine
Councilmember Gerry Friedel
Councilmember Sharron Grzybowski
Councilmember Peggy McMahon
Councilmember Mike Scharnow
Councilmember David Spelich



(photo L-R, front row: McMahon, Dickey, Grzybowski Backrow: Spelich, Scharnow, Magazine, Friedel)

Town Council did not meet from June 16 through August 16 for the summer break. To review the approved agenda items, and all Town Council upcoming and previous agenda items, go to <a href="https://www.fh.az.gov/agendas">www.fh.az.gov/agendas</a>.

#### **NOTABLE TOWN COUNCIL ACTIONS**

(All meetings start at 5:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Chambers)

#### **August**

- Approved contract for Desert Vista Crosswalk construction
- Mini-Pitch construction approved for Desert Vista Park; Approved light installation for Skate Park at Desert Vista

#### September

- Amended code to convert many of the criminal penalties to civil penalties
- Approved posting No Trespassing signs on town owned washes

#### October

- Joint session with Fountain Hills Sanitary District
- Approval of art installation at Havenly Fountain Hills
- One Arizona Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds Agreement approved

#### November

- Temporary Signs Ordinance approved
- 2022 Legislative Agenda for Town approved
- Approval of a \$300,000 grant assistance program for Fountain Hills-based not-forprofit organizations
- \$27,000 donation from A-DOG for shade structures accepted

All meetings may be watched live on Cox Channel 11 and the Town's YouTube Channel. See the Town Council agenda at <a href="www.fh.az.gov/agendas">www.fh.az.gov/agendas</a> for more information on how to participate and submit comment cards. Town Council meetings meet monthly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Work sessions are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. if necessary.

## What to Know about Having a Garage Sale

Winter is a great time to clean out the unwanted clutter around your house and either donate to a charity or have a garage sale. Garage sales are a fun way to make a little money and get rid of all that "stuff" that is no longer needed, or the kids didn't take with them. But have you thought that having a sale could be an inconvenience for your neighbors by increasing traffic, noise, signage and pedestrians? Be a good neighbor by following the following requirements for holding a garage or yard sale:



- Check first with your Homeowner's Association to ensure a garage sale is allowed.
- The sale can only be conducted within your property lines.
- Sale merchandise cannot be displayed nor any associated activities be conducted on any public property, which includes sidewalks and streets.
- Sale items must be limited to surplus items from your household. For example, the sale of 25 bicycles would not be a garage sale.
- The sale must not last for more than 3 consecutive days and no more than 4 sales are permitted per calendar year.
- The sale and related activities are to be limited to the hours between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- On week days (Monday Thursday) sale signs can only be displayed on private property (not within the Town right of way which varies but is generally 10' to 15' behind the curb or edge of pavement).
- All signs must comply with the Town Zoning requirements for signs as provided in Section 6.08 D. The maximum number of signs allowed leading to a garage sale is four (4); one on the property and three leading to the location.
- No signs are permitted in medians that divide roadways, on sidewalks, or on Shea Boulevard.
  On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and on federal holidays, signs may be placed in the right of way
  along town streets (but still not on Shea or in a median). When placed in the right of way, they
  to be placed at least three feet back from the curb or from the paved surface, if there is no curb.
  On these days, signs may be displayed from official sunrise until official sunset on the day(s) of
  the sale
- Allowed sign types are A-frames and Yard signs. The maximum size is 6 square feet. Signs must be made of durable material such as wood, plastic, or metal and maintained in good repair. Cardboard and other light weight material is not permitted.

Do you have a lot of material you want to throw away? The next Republic Services bulk trash pickup starts March 2, 2022 through April 27, 2022. See the bulk trash schedule at <a href="www.fountainhillsaz.gov/Utility-Contact-Information">www.fountainhillsaz.gov/Utility-Contact-Information</a>. Need a one-time pickup? Schedule online at <a href="www.republicservices.com/residents/bulk-waste">www.republicservices.com/residents/bulk-waste</a> or call 602-237-2078.

## **Grant Programs Support Non-Profits**

The Town of Fountain Hills will be launching two grant programs in the coming months supporting local non-profit organizations. Thanks to a generous contribution of \$10,000 from Republic Services, the town's solid waste and recycling provider, a grant program was created to fund community-based programs and service projects. To be considered for this grant program, a program or project must demonstrate benefits to the community in at least one of the following areas: stewardship of the environment, enhancement of the natural beauty of the town, providing public enjoyment, supporting healthy



lifestyles, or providing educational opportunities. Applications for this grant program will be accepted until December 31, 2021.

The Town of Fountain Hills will also be administering a \$300,000 grant program to local non-profit organizations with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Grant funding from this program can be utilized for eligible expenses such as: operating expenses directly or indirectly tied to the pandemic, lease/mortgage assistance, lost revenue due to the pandemic, purchase/installation of public safety equipment/devices to help protect customers and employees through limiting the spread of COVID-19. Other expenses may also be considered. This grant program will begin accepting applications in January 2022.

To read program guidelines in detail and apply for each grant program, please visit <a href="https://www.fountainhillsaz.gov/787/Grant-Programs">https://www.fountainhillsaz.gov/787/Grant-Programs</a> for more information.

## **About Desert Vista Dog Park**

One of the town's most popular amenities is the Dog Park at Desert Vista Park. This "off-leash recreation facility" is a 3-acre fenced facility that allows pet owners the opportunity to let their dogs run free. Dogs must be licensed and have proper vaccinations. The Dog Park is divided into two fenced areas, one for larger dogs and the other smaller canines. The large/active dog area can be accessed from entrances on either Tower Drive or Desert Vista. The small/passive dog area can only be accessed from Tower Drive.

#### **RULES FOR THE DOG PARK:**

- Dogs must wear a visible and current license.
- Dogs must be physically restrained by a leash not to exceed 6 feet until completely inside the enclosed facility and when leaving.
- A limit of three dogs per handler at one time.
- Female dogs in heat and un-neutered male dogs are not permitted within the facility.
- Gates must be kept closed at all times after entrance/exit.
- Dog handlers must be within the facility and supervise their dogs at all times.
- Dog waste must be removed and properly disposed of in the receptacles located throughout the park.
- Dog handlers may not allow their dogs to bark continuously.
- No dogs known to be aggressive toward other dogs or people may enter the dog park.
- Leash/remove your dog at the first sign of aggression. Handlers must carry leashes, not to exceed 6 feet for each dog under their care.
- An adult must accompany/supervise children under 15 at all times. Children need to behave in an appropriate manner: no running, no chasing dogs, no petting of other dogs unless the owner/handler grants permission.
- No skateboards, in-line skates or bicycles in the dog park.
- The dog handler must repair any damages done to the park (ex. digging).
- All dog handlers who fail to comply with these rules can be asked to leave or be cited if appropriate. Repeat offenders may be banned from the park.
- Users of this park do so at their own risk. The Town of Fountain Hills shall not be liable for any injury or damages sustained in this park. Dog owners are legally responsible for their dog's actions, and are liable for any injuries caused to their dogs.

In case of a dog bite call 911 then notify Maricopa Animal Control at (602) 506-7387.

## **ADOG Works Tirelessly for Dogs/Dog Owners**



Fountain Hills is regarded as one of the best pet-friendly towns in the Valley. It's no wonder that with great parks, hiking trails, and even many pet-friendly restaurant patios, so many people are out-and-about with their furry friends. Thanks to ADOG, dog owners in Fountain Hills have advocates that focus on improving the lives of dogs and dog owners in the community.



Since 1998, ADOG has been a staple among dog owners In Fountain Hills and the surrounding areas. The Association of Dog Owners Group (ADOG) is a not-for-profit organization whose primary purpose is to improve the lives of our canine companions at home and play and engage the community at large through better communication with the Town of Fountain Hills and neighbors.

The organization focuses on education, training, and community outreach. The Town has asked ADOG of Fountain Hills to act as the liaison between the Town and resident dog owners collaborating and advising on Town ordinances, events, and issues involving our canine residents.

This mutually beneficial partnership between the Town and ADOG helps ensure dogs, their owners, and the other residents and business are all enjoying the Town cohesively.

ADOG receives no money from the Town or operational grants from any source but relies exclusively on dues, fundraisers, and tax-free personal donations. Through the generosity of ADOG and its members, Desert Vista Dog Park has received sight barriers between the dog parks to discourage barking, the group has provided snake aversion training events for dogs, and put up shade Ramada's in the dog parks and maintained them.

Learn more about A-Dog at www.adogfh.org.

### **Dates to Remember**

Upcoming days to celebrate your best friends. (Share a picture and be sure to include



the hashtag **#LeashUpCleanUp** with your social media post.

January 14 – National Dress Up Your Pet Day. Just remember, even when you dress up your pet, your dog must be on a leash. #LeashUpCleanUp

February is Responsible Pet Owners Month Responsible pet owners

February 3 – It's #NationalDoggyDateNight. Remember when you are celebrating doggy date night to #LeashUpCleanUp

February 20 - #NationalLoveYourPetDay

March 13 – #NationalK9VetransDay We salute all our K-9 veterans throughout the state and in our community. They are always on a leash in public despite having years of training.

March 23 – #NationaPuppyDay Celebrate today by going to adopt a puppy at a local shelter.

March 30 – #NationaTakeAWalkInTheParkDay While you are out enjoying a walk in the park with your four-legged friends, don't forget, they must be on a leash when not in designated off-leash areas. It's the law.

DID YOU KNOW ... that Maricopa County Animal Care and Control is now patrolling Fountain Hills more frequently? Leash Up your dog or risk a citation. Call 602-372-4598.

### **Did You Know?**

**MYTH:** The park is a safe place to let dogs roam off-leash.

FACT: The park is not a safe place to walk dogs off-leash. Many dogs have been lost, injured, or killed because irresponsible dog owners tried to use voice control at the park without providing standard safeguards for dogs.

MYTH: Off-leash access at (insert your city/town) is necessary because there is not sufficient off-leash access provided.

FACT: Fountain Hills has a designated off-leash park at Desert Vista Dog Park, located at 11800 Desert Vista.

**MYTH:** My dog's feces will break down naturally or act as a fertilizer.

FACT: Dog waste can take months or years to break down, and when it does it can deposit loads of toxins and bacteria into the soil. If you find someone who is not picking up after their dog, open up a conversation with them and discuss some of the reasons this is an unhealthy practice.

#### TAKE THE PLEDGE

Make a commitment to leash up and clean up. https://bit.ly/leashupcleanuppledge

## It Takes A Community To Stop Sodium Pollution

Next time you fill your water softener with a heavy bag of salt, stop to think about where it goes. Did you know that approximately 1 million pounds of sodium are added to the wastewater collected by the Sanitary District every year?

The Sanitary District recycles every drop of wastewater collected in Fountain Hills. All of the sodium from water softeners ends up in the recycled water supply, used for irrigation at our local parks and golf courses.

#### How does the 40-pound bag of salt used to refill a home water softener end up on the grass at local parks and golf courses?

When you add salt to your water softener, it is dissolved into the water for your home, used for drinking and washing, and then discharged into the sewer system. Once in the sewer system, it is collected, treated, and then sent to local parks and golf courses for irrigating the grass and landscaping. It is also used to refill Fountain Lake to irrigate the park grass and provide water for the fountain. In the end, every 40-pound bag of salt that a resident uses ends up applied to the grass at local parks and golf courses.

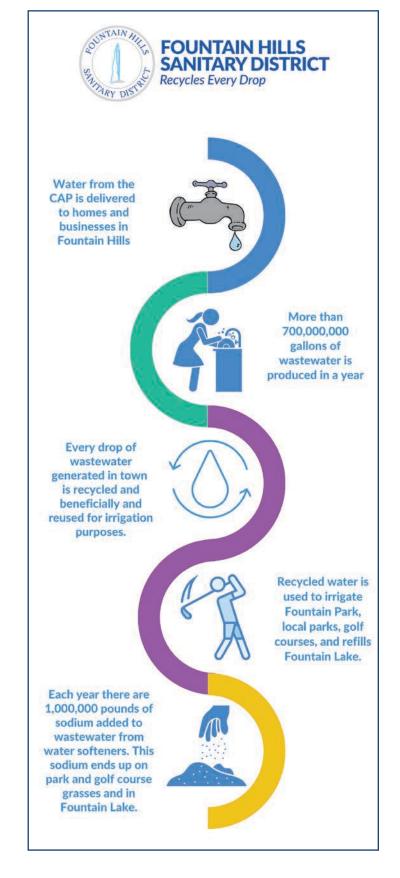
Benefits of using Potassium Chloride in your water softener:

- Provides needed potassium to your diet
- Reduces sodium intake
- Doesn't pollute the local water source
- Better for grass at local parks and golf courses
- Protects pipes and appliances from corrosion
- Safe for all softeners

It is more expensive, but is better for you and the environment.

## **Which Salt To Use?**

	Sodium Chloride (Same as table salt)	Potassium Chloride
Size of Bag	40 lbs	40 lbs
Cost per Bag	\$7 at hardware store	\$34 at hardware store \$19 at Costco
Number of times to refill in a year	4x	4x
Annual Cost	\$28	\$136 (hardware store) \$76 (Costco)
Pollutes local water resources?	Yes	No
Annual amount of sodium that ends up watering local parks and golf courses per year	63 lbs per household	0 lbs



### **Fountain Hills Cares Delivers**

The Town's first Fountain Hills Cares community on topics affecting the community was held in October. The Saturday conference attracted more than 80 residents to hear subjects that included race relationships, mental health and suicide prevention, the rise of fentanyl in our community, and a discussion about homelessness in the region.

In its 12th year, the Fountain Hills Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition works through community-wide collaboration to reduce substance abuse among youths ages 12-18. Executive Director Mike Scharnow presented "The Rise of Fentanyl," focusing on the rising epidemic of deadly fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills and, as a result, unsuspecting youths and adults dying from overdoses. www.fhcoalition.org

Marle Ethelbah, the community outreach and education coordinator for the Arizona Attorney General's Office provided an overview on the epidemic of suicide among youth in our community. To learn more about the subject of suicide prevention, visit the Arizona Attorney General's Office website at www.azag.gov/outreach/suicide-prevention.

There is no one cause of homelessness in our region, and many factors can lead to a person experiencing homelessness. Loss of income, unexpected debt, a sudden illness or accident, medical conditions, and domestic violence are just a few factors that can lead to homelessness. There is no stereotypical homeless individual. Homelessness can affect people from all income levels, backgrounds, ethnicities, religions, and ages. Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), of which Fountain Hills is a member, is leading a regional approach to the issues of homelessness. MAG works alongside nonprofit organizations and dedicated individuals to provide resources for those in need and those who want to help. www.azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness



(Pictured left to right, Chief Program Officer of a New Leaf Kathy DiNolfi, Social Justice Coordinator for AZ Faith Network, and Deputy Executive Director of the Maricopa Association of Governments Amy St. Peter.)



Marle Ethelbah



Mike Scharnow

## Make a Difference Day Helps Residents in Need

Make a Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of service where millions of volunteers across the country unite in a common mission to improve the lives of others.

On October 23, 336 community volunteers heeded the call to help neighbors in need.

- ✓ 37 Residential Projects
- √ 336 Volunteers
- ✓ Over 1600 Service Hours Contributed
- ✓ Countless Chuck Truck Debris Pick-ups
- ✓ 5 Dumpsters filled with Debris
- ✓ Over 40 Volunteers helped beautify Fountain Hills Middle School Campus
- ✓ Over 40 Volunteers planted 150 plants at Town Hall
- ✓ Over 100 Holiday Greeting Cards were created by our Girl Scouts for Care Card









### **WHO DO I CALL?**

THREAT TO LIFE OR PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCIES – Call 911

Town Hall

(480) 816-5100 (Monday – Thursday)

Town Website – www.fh.az.gov

Community Center - (480) 816-5200

Activity Center – (480) 816-5226

Public Library – (602) 652-3000 Community Services – (480) 816-5100

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Sheriff's Dispatch (602) 876-1011 Call 911 for Emergencies

Fountain Hills Fire Department Station 1 – 480-837-9820; Station 2 – 480-837-0804; Call 911 for Emergencies

Fountain Hills School District (480) 664-5000

Fountain Hills Municipal Court (480) 816-5103

Century Link

Residential customers, (866) 642-0444; Business customers, (877) 744-4416

Cox Communications – (602) 277-1000

EPCOR Water - (480) 837-9522

**Republic Services** 

(Garbage removal) (602) 237-2078

Salt River Project – (Electric utility) General information, (602) 236-8888; emergency (24 hours), (602) 236-8811

Fountain Hills Sanitary District (480) 837-9444

Maricopa County Animal Control (602) 506-7387

Code Enforcement Hotline (480) 816-5193



## **Teen Suicide Prevention**

### Talk Early. Talk Often. Talking to Teens When They Feel No Hope.

Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death of youth, ages 15-24

Teen suicide is on the rise in Arizona. As a parent, are you aware of your child's feelings? Do you know how to help? Here are some steps you can take to help you help your child.

#### **EXPRESS YOUR CONCERN**

 By honestly and openly expressing your concerns, you'll send an important message that you care and understand.

#### **REALLY LISTEN**

 Parents can be tempted to shut down an upsetting conversation by saying, "I don't want to hear those things," or "I had a hard time as a teen, but I got over it." Instead, say, "Tell me more about how you're feeling." Then listen.

#### **BE COMPASSIONATE**

Tell your child you hear her/his pain, that it can get better, that
you will make sure she/he gets help, and support them every step of
the way.

#### TRUST YOUR JUDGEMENT

• Of a young person denies that she/he is having suicidal thoughts, but you have doubts, trust your intuition. Take further steps to ensure his/her safety.

#### **PRIORITIZE SAFETY**

• Make sure the child or teen is not left alone and consult a mental health professional right away.

#### IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN, CALL 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

For more resources contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-272-8255, or <u>www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org</u>.

In an emergency, call 911. If your concerns are less urgent, seek help as soon as possible from a mental health professional. The child's school psychologist might be able to share resources in your community.

Information courtesy of the Office of the Arizona Attorney General – <a href="https://www.azag.gov/outreach/suicide-prevention">www.azag.gov/outreach/suicide-prevention</a>.

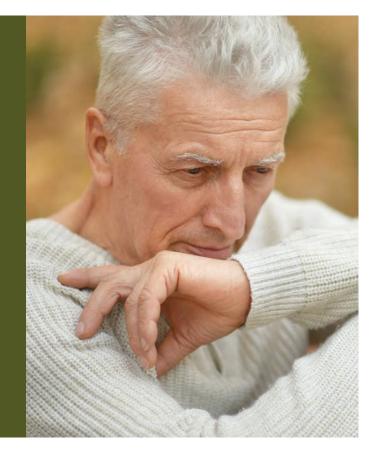
## **Adult Suicide Prevention**

Suicide is an important problem among older adults. Suicide rates are particularly high among older men, with men ages 85 and older having the highest rate of any group in the country.

#### **RISK FACTORS**

- Depression and other mental health problems
- Substance use problems (including prescription medications)
- Physical illness, disability, and pain
- Social isolation
- Protective factors
- Care for mental and physical health problems
- Social connectedness
- Skills in coping and adapting to change

Learn what you can do to help older adults who are depressed at <a href="https://www.sprc.org/populations/older-adults">www.sprc.org/populations/older-adults</a>



### **Fresh Grass in Fountain Park Ready for Winter Visitors**

Fountain Park saw a successful overseeding season allowing for lush green Ryegrass throughout the winter months on the 32 acres of turf. Thanks for all the resident's patience while we irrigated during the day for October to get the turf established.



Ford GT. 100 Ford GTs were on display in Fountain Park November 1. The group was part of a five-day event held in Scottsdale and selected Fountain Hills for an opportunity to take photos in front of the fountain.

## **Fountain Park Projects in the Works**

The next several months will include multiple improvements to Fountain Park. First up is the redesigned splash pad. The original splash pad was one of the first installed in the state and showed signs of its age, along with unrepairable leaks below the concrete surface, requiring replacement. The new splash pad installation is ready for warm weather and should reopen in April. The 5 – 12-year-old playground is also a muchloved facility and is prepared for a makeover. Upgrades will be made in December and January and will create a new play space nearly double the current size.



## Winter-Spring Activity Guide Keeps You In The Loop

The latest edition of the Community Services activity guide, *In the Loop*, is available to pick up at Fountain Hills Town Hall and Fountain Hills Community Center. The activity guide spotlights the myriad of programs, activities, and events in Fountain Hills from December 2021 to May 2022.

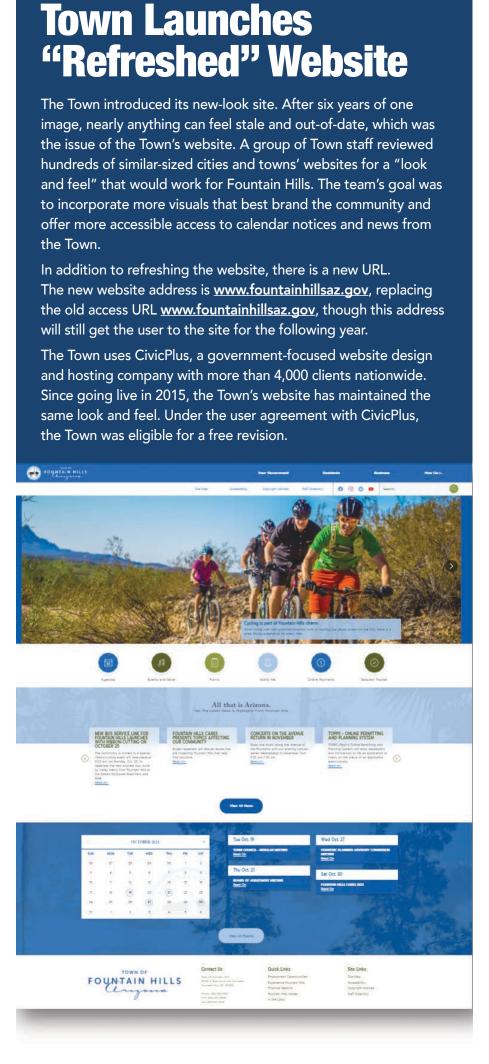
Registration is now open for Winter 2021 – Spring 2022, special interest classes, sports leagues, fitness and wellness programs. With over 100 options of programs and classes offered this upcoming season, there is a wide array of programs options for youth, teens, and adults to get active or learn a new skill. Town Recreation staff urge interested participants to register early before program options fill.

NEW programs include Ping Pong League, Skateboard Lessons, Beginners Edge Sports Training classes, Adult Recess, 3-on-3 Men's Basketball Tournament, Chair Yoga, and more!

Visit FountainHillsAZ.gov/Recreation to view programs and online registration. For additional questions, contact Fountain Hills Community Services at 480.816.5100

Website: <a href="mailto:customerservice@fountainhillsaz.gov.">customerservice@fountainhillsaz.gov.</a>







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## FOUNTAIN Insider

## 8th Annual Concours in the Hills Roars into Fountain Hills Feb. 12, 2022

Car, motorcycle and military vehicle enthusiasts, get revved up for the 8th annual Gila River Hotels & Casinos Concours in the Hills on Saturday, February 12 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Fountain Park in Fountain Hills. The free, family-friendly 2022 event promises to be high-velocity in a spectacular venue on the gently rolling hills of the park, all benefitting world-class care at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

The free event to the community started in 2014 with 220 cars and 3,000 spectators, and in 2020 featured 1,052 cars, 118 sponsor booths and more than 30,000 spectators, smashing all previous records.



